

Council on Postsecondary Education
July 22, 2002

Executive Summary

4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?
5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?

During spring 2002, the council staff visited each university and the KCTCS to review their internal academic program approval practices. The purpose of the review was to determine whether the program development criteria approved by the council in November 1999 are integrated into institutional processes. A summary of findings is provided on page 83.

The staff recommends that the council accept the second program productivity review report, commend the universities for their continued perseverance in reviewing their academic programs, and authorize the council staff to work with the institutions as they pursue additional changes to some programs and report back to the council in early 2003. (For details, see page 87.)

The council conducted its second review of university degree program productivity during the 2001-02 academic year. The purpose of the review is to identify programs that do not appear to be sufficiently or efficiently contributing to the needs of the state. The institutions have outlined plans to either close or alter programs and, for some with sufficient justification, continue them in their current form. The council is asked to accept the report and authorize the staff to continue working with the institutions in their review of programs that require additional time to address.

The productivity review was developed as a part of the council's streamlined academic program policies. These policies were designed to better connect new and current academic programs to state needs, especially workforce shortages. The Cabinet for Workforce Development also is in the process of assessing current and future workforce needs. Nancy Laprade from the cabinet will join the council staff at the July meeting to discuss the relationship of that work to the council's process for the development and review of academic programs.

The staff recommends that the council approve the Bachelor of Science in Sport and Fitness Administration/Management (CIP 31.0504) proposed by Northern Kentucky University. (For details, see page 91.)

Northern Kentucky University is proposing a B.S. in Sport Business to prepare students for work in a growing workforce area. While responding to needs in its service region, NKU also has established formal collaborative agreements with the two other universities offering similar programs and with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and the Kentucky Virtual University to improve access, preparation, and placement of students statewide.

Student success is tied to professors who are well prepared to teach a diverse body of students through a variety of techniques. The council sponsors many professional development activities for postsecondary faculty, including a statewide faculty development conference. The fourth annual conference was held in May in Louisville. The conference is sponsored by the council and coordinated by the chief academic officers and the statewide faculty development workgroup. A summary of the conference begins on page 95.

The staff recommends that the council ratify the approval of a six-month extension to the Endowment Match Program's existing June 30, 2002, request submission deadline. (For details, see page 97.)

The Endowment Match Program is one of the council's major programs related to the Commonwealth's "new economy" initiative. Its purpose is to build endowments at the public universities and to help advance the state's economy. Because of the impact on fundraising of September 11 and presidential transitions, some of the comprehensive university presidents have requested a six-month extension to the existing June 30, 2002, deadline for submitting requests for 2000-02 Endowment Match Program funds. The agenda item on page 97 responds to this request.

Kentucky's postsecondary institutions are instrumental to the Commonwealth's communities and knowledge-based economy through their participation in the Research and Development Voucher Program, Rural Innovation Program, and Commercialization Program. These programs, established in House Bill 572 of the 2000 Kentucky General Assembly, link the institutions, private citizens, and private industry together in research activities and in the commercialization of research results. The council contracted with the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation in 2000-02 to administer the programs. The council staff has drafted revised contracts for 2002-04. These contracts await review by the Office of the New Economy and will be presented to the council upon the completion of that review.

The council's statewide strategy for engineering was created to increase the number of engineers in Kentucky's workforce. Implementation of four joint undergraduate engineering programs continues to move along despite the tight fiscal environment. A progress report begins on page 101.

In continued support of knowledge-based economy initiatives, the council was represented at the 2002 Biotechnology Industry Organization convention and exhibition in Toronto, Canada, in June. Also in attendance were the Governor and members of his staff, campus leadership, and other state and local economic development leaders. The Governor hosted a dinner for Kentucky biotechnology companies, as well as biotechnology industries and venture capital firms that Kentucky postsecondary education institutions and the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet hope to recruit. Members of the delegation also toured the University of Toronto and the University of Guelph, met with their researchers, and explored potential research partnerships.